

I am a United States of America shredded flag.
 I fly from the roof of many typical American homes.
 Some time ago, I was new and radiant when they placed me there,
 But the wind and rain have reduced me to strings of red, white, and blue.
 Sometimes I fly from vehicles until I am torn to shreds;
 Though I still wave proudly, and can be recognized, I need replaced,
 And here's why:
 Brave military have carried me into battles in many wars
 To save and preserve our nation, and restore peace.
 I fly proudly above our military bases and naval vessels
 To show that we are, yet today, a nation of strength and honor.
 Our Veterans, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guard
 Still honor me, care for me, protect me, and rescue me when torn;
 With them, I am in good hands.
 When they see that I am weathering from the elements,
 They take me down and honorably, ceremonially give me final rest,
 And as a service to those citizens who do not seem to know, or do the same,
 They do it for them, with great respect and understanding.
 I am called "Old Glory", "The Star Spangled Banner", and other respected names,
 Which make me flow and flutter proudly in the wind,
 For I am the true vision of our great nation.
 I represent a people who have achieved their freedom;
 I remind a people of the sacrifices that we have made to keep it;
 I go off to war with the greatest warriors, many who die defending it;
 And I grieve when draped over their coffins when they are returned.
 I am placed into the hands of their greatest loved ones
 To honor them and remember them forevermore.
 Those who dishonor me, stomp on me, and burn me, only destroy my cloth.
 My meaning, my purpose, my honor and representation still live on;
 These cannot be taken away so long as there remains a United States of America.
 So, fellow citizens, protect what I stand for, not for me, but for you;
 For I am merely dye on cloth with a God blessed meaning.
 Honor me; respect me for what I represent,
 And I will fly over you wherever, and forever.
 I am the "Stars and Stripes Forever".

Written by Paul Frederick Dudley, Colonel, USAF (Ret) USMC (WWII) USAF (Vietnam) March 6, 2011.

RECOGNIZING DR. STEVEN A. LOOMIS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Dr. Steven A. Loomis of Littleton, Colorado. Dr. Loomis will soon be elected the 93rd president of the American Optometric Association (AOA) during their 118th annual meeting on June 27, 2015, in Seattle, Washington.

Dr. Loomis is a graduate of Pacific University College of Optometry and owns Mountain Vista EyeCare and Dry Eye Center in Littleton, Colorado. He was first elected to the American Optometric Association Board of Trustees in 2007, and elected President-Elect at the 117th Annual AOA Congress & 44th Annual AOSA Conference: Optometry's Meeting in June 2014. Dr. Loomis has continuously proven to be a leader in his profession at the local, state, and national levels. In addition to his duties as President-Elect, Dr. Loomis is chair of the AOA Building Committee and serves as a member of the AOA Agenda, Executive, and Personnel Committees.

Dr. Loomis' enthusiasm for optometry and commitment to excellence in eye and vision care has earned him this prestigious national office. I take great pride representing Dr. Loomis in Colorado's Sixth Congressional District and I join his family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating him on this achievement. I am confident that he will have a very successful term as president of the AOA and I wish him the very best of luck.

MAYOR KURT D. DYKSTRA

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Kurt D. Dykstra and his commendable service to the City of Holland as its 40th Mayor.

Mayor Dykstra was the first of his family to attend college, and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree, Magna Cum Laude, at Northwestern College, in Orange City, Iowa, and his Juris Doctor at Marquette University Law School, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, graduating first in class, Summa Cum Laude.

Mayor Dykstra has been a member of the City Council since 2005 and represented Holland's fifth ward until his election to Mayor. As Holland's mayor since 2009, he has provided strong leadership for this thriving and successful lakefront city. Today, Holland is a bright, vibrant city thanks to his vision and leadership.

During his tenure, Holland was named the 2013 winner of Outstanding Achievement in Heritage Preservation, the 2012 winner of Environmental Efforts, named in Forbes list of America's Prettiest Towns, a Top Five Safest Cities in the U.S., and the 3rd Best Place for Families in the U.S.

Mayor Dykstra's record of successful leadership has enabled the City of Holland to continue to be recognized as a place to live, work and play. Under Mayor Dykstra, the city has become a place where businesses are able to grow, strong and safe neighborhoods flourish, and visitors are warmly welcomed. The City of Holland has been well served by his tenure.

I wish Mayor Dykstra the best of luck as he leaves West Michigan to become President of Trinity Christian College.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Kurt Dykstra for his service to the City of Holland.

HONORING THE GLEN MOORE FIRE COMPANY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Glen Moore Fire Company on its 100th anniversary of serving and protecting families in Chester County.

Glen Moore's first apparatus was horse-drawn. It was bought for \$100 in 1915 after local residents saw the need for fire protection in the community. Since then, the Company has grown and thrived and the Glen Moore area now benefits from the protection of a highly-trained team of expert officers and members, modern apparatus and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, in 2014 alone, the Glen Moore Fire Company responded to more than 300 incidents—one every 29 hours. We are grateful to the fine firefighters of the Glen Moore Fire Company and I wish them another 100 years of success in serving the community.

HONORING COUNCILMAN THOMAS D. MISERENDINO

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Navy and Vietnam veteran Thomas Miserendino of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, who passed away last week, and express my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Councilman Miserendino served our country valiantly during the Vietnam War and in his position as Senior Chief of the U.S. Navy. Councilman Miserendino continued his service to the country after his time in the Navy by actively serving his community.

Among his many volunteer services he was a Councilman to the Borough of Beachwood, the longest serving Chief of Beachwood Volunteer Fire Company, Ocean County manager for the NJ Firemen's Home, Secretary of the Beachwood Fire Relief Association, Life member of Ocean County Firemen's Association and past board member for Toms River Board of Education.

Mr. Speaker, South Jersey is tremendously grateful for Councilman Thomas Miserendino's service to our nation and its communities. It is my honor to recognize his service and achievements before the United States House of Representatives.

YOUNG AMERICA'S NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all of the students who will take part in the Young America's National High School Leadership Conference from July 8th to 11th. At this conference, the students will learn leadership

skills along with discussing the ideas of individual freedom, a strong national defense, free enterprise, and traditional values. It is extremely important for young people in the United States to learn about the virtues of these ideas.

I join with the students' families and friends in wishing these young conservative leaders a successful conference, and excellent time in our nation's capital.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANTHONY "TONY" GIANNETTA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Anthony Dominic "Tony" Giannetta, who passed away on May 30, 2015, at the age of 94. As the founder of Hallmark Homes, Tony helped expand the California home building industry and devoted much of his life to maintaining it. His kind heart, talent, and contributions to the Central Valley will be greatly missed.

Tony was born on November 7, 1920, in Fresno, California. Raised in Fresno, Tony graduated from Edison High School. He married Alice Therese Baraldi on November 22, 1942, and shortly thereafter the two moved to Marysville, CA, to fulfill Tony's duties in the United States Army. After the war the couple moved back to Fresno, where they settled and raised six sons.

During the late 1940's, Tony began his career in the home building industry as a carpenter. In 1951 Tony and John Mortillaro formed the Quality Homes Construction Company, which merged with the Cetti Brothers Construction Company a year later. Under the Hallmark Homes name, the company developed 27 subdivisions and built more than 4,500 homes in the Fresno, Clovis, and Madera areas, in addition to the construction of many commercial projects. This made Hallmark Homes one of the largest regional builders for three decades, and it marked the association of the name Tony Giannetta within the home building industry. In fact, the two became synonymous in Fresno.

Tony was a member of the Building Industry Association of the San Joaquin Valley, and served as president in 1967, 1979, and 1980. He acted as a Director to the California Building Industry Association and was a life director to the National Association of Homebuilders who on February 15, 2008 acknowledged him as a 50 year member, and he served on various committees for the California Building Industry Association including its Legislative Committee, Executive Committee, Insurance Committee, and Long Range Planning Committee.

As a Fresno native, maintaining community involvement was important to Tony. In partnership with the Construction Department at Fresno City College, Tony provided work experience training for students in the building industry. He was also instrumental in creating the National Association of Home Builders-Building Industry Association student chapters at Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno.

For his contributions to homebuilding and its community, Tony became a lifetime member

of the Building Industry Association of the San Joaquin Valley in 1986 and was inducted into the California Housing Foundation Hall of Fame in 1988—the first inductee to come from the Central Valley. He was also awarded the Oscar Spano Lifetime Service Award in 1988 by his local building industry association.

In his spare time, Tony enjoyed traveling, playing sports and cherished his time with family and friends. He was a devoted husband to Alice, his bride of 72 years; a loving father to his sons, Gerald, Ronald, Anthony Jr., James, Michael and John; and the kind and generous grandfather of 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Tony's favorite memories included celebrating the holidays in his home as well as gathering for Sunday pasta lunches, a tradition he shared with his family.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Anthony Dominic "Tony" Giannetta, a Central Valley pioneer and influential figure in the California home building industry.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,758,342,047.24. We've added \$7,525,881,293,134.16 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE RICHARD AND GINA SANTORI LIBRARY OF AURORA, ILLINOIS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the Richard and Gina Santori Library of Aurora, Illinois.

Since its founding in 1838, the Aurora Public Library system has nurtured education in our diverse community and has instilled a love of reading for generations of Aurorans. By establishing locations throughout the city, developing bookmobiles and robust outreach efforts, the library has made educational resources accessible to all Aurorans and been a strong contributor to community growth.

With the opening of the new library in downtown Aurora, the Aurora Public Library has embraced the challenges and opportunities of the next century. The building will feature a "Makers Space" on the first floor with a 3D printer, laser cutter, vinyl cutter, plotter printer, computers with CAD, CAM, Adobe Cloud and other creation software for students and community members to experiment and train with modern manufacturing tools. It will also feature

an audio/visual library, the Kiwanis Club of Aurora Children's Library, and a Teen Space with a state-of-the-art media studio. These new resources will allow the Aurora Public Library to continue its mission and serve the new needs of our community.

Congratulations to the City of Aurora and the Aurora Public Library on the opening of the new facility. The Richard and Gina Santori Library will no doubt inspire future generations to become lifelong learners.

THE FUTURE OF U.S.-ZIMBABWE RELATIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 12, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Zimbabwe is a country the size of the state of Montana, with a population of nearly 14 million people. However, its mineral wealth gives it an outsized importance. The southern African nation is the world's third largest source of platinum group metals and has significant reserves of nickel, gold, chromium and dozens of other metals and minerals. Significant diamond reserves were discovered in 2006. Currently, about 40 percent of the country's foreign exchange is earned from the export of these metals and minerals.

It was the abundance of such mineral resources, and their exploitation, which has driven the relationship between the West and Zimbabwe. Since its colonization by Cecil Rhodes' British South Africa Company in 1889 on behalf of Great Britain, the area once known as Southern Rhodesia has experienced a tumultuous history. The white minority gained self-governance in 1922, and a 1930 Land Apportionment Act restricted black access to land, making many Africans laborers and not land owners. In 1964, the white minority government unsuccessfully sought independence from Great Britain, and then unilaterally declared independence a year later under white rule. This move sparked international outrage and economic sanctions, and that regime was never widely recognized by the international community, though the support of white-ruled South Africa enabled the government to limp along.

Meanwhile, black opposition to minority rule, which began in the 1930s, erupted into a guerrilla war in 1972. Attempts to end the conflict diplomatically failed until the 1979 talks brokered by Great Britain resulted in British-supervised independence elections. The winner of those elections was Robert Mugabe, leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union, or ZANU, who at age 91 continues to rule this country, in large part through intimidation and manipulation of elections.

As a hero of the independence and majority rule movements, Mugabe has enjoyed the support of many other African leaders, who have considered him an honored elder and have generally declined to join in international efforts to sanction his government. This has placed the United States in an awkward position, with limited African support for political and economic reforms in Zimbabwe.

Although many observers have credited the Mugabe government with productive management until fairly recent years, there were political problems from the beginning of his rule.